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# RIAA Pre-Litigation Letters Sent to MIT

23 Students Accused of Copyright Violations

By Nick Semenkovich

ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Twenty-three MIT students have been sent pre-litigation settlement letters after allegedly illegally downloading copyrighted audio recordings, according to a press release from the Recording Industry Association of America.

MIT received the pre-litigation letters last Wednesday, May 2, said Daniel Jacobs, legal assistant in MIT's Senior Counsel's Office. At that time, Jacobs said that the letters would have to be analyzed before MIT considered forwarding them to students. These are the first RIAA pre-litigation letters received by MIT, according to Jacobs.

As of yesterday, MIT had forwarded the letters on to students, said Timothy J. McGovern, manager of IT Security Support for Information Services and Technology. McGovern also said that MIT suggested students talk with advisers, family members, or attorneys in considering a response to a pre-litigation letter.

McGovern declined to discuss legal specifics regarding the cases, saying the letters were part of a student's permanent record and thus legally protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

According to a spokeswoman from the RIAA, the letters are part of a new anti-piracy initiative an-

nounced in February that offers students a chance to avoid a lawsuit by settling outside of court. The spokeswoman also said that the letters allow students to settle at a discounted rate compared to the damages sought in a civil suit.

The new initiative is a shift from the RIAA's previous strategy of filing "John Doe" lawsuits and subpoenas that order MIT to divulge the name of a student. Instead, the RIAA contacts schools directly with pre-litigation letters containing IP addresses — addresses used to uniquely define computers on the Internet — of allegedly infringing users and the dates of the offenses. The RIAA then requests that schools forward the letters on to users, according to an RIAA press release. The spokeswoman said that the majority of schools that received letters had forwarded them on to students.

According to a sample pre-litigation letter provided by the RIAA, the settlement process involves "lump sum" payment to record companies and deletion of all material infringing on copyright. The agreement also states that the party accused of copyright infringement agrees to not infringe on "any other sound recording protected under federal or state law ... whether now in existence or

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# Preferred Dining Program Is Loss For Baker Students, Report Says

**Baker House residents vote on the Preferred Dining membership at last night's house meeting.**

By Angeline Wang

NEWS EDITOR

A majority of Baker House residents are satisfied with the quality of Baker Dining but do not consider the Preferred Dining membership program to be a value to them, according to a report released last week by the Baker House Dining Committee. The committee found that the average Baker resident loses \$125 per term through Preferred Dining, a mandatory program for most residents of dormitories with dining halls that gives students a 50 percent discount on dining hall food after

paying for membership.

According to the committee's presentation to Campus Dining, Baker Dining loses \$100,000 per term to operate, an amount that is almost covered by the money students lose from participation in Preferred Dining.

The report also analyzed a proposed 75 Meal Plan Program and made recommendations for changes to the dining system to improve efficiency, including increasing transparency and student input and lightening Dining's financial hardships. The report gives the results of a

dormitory-wide dining survey conducted by the committee, in which approximately half the residents of Baker were surveyed.

See the full report at <http://www-tech.mit.edu/V127/N24/bakerdining/report.pdf> and <http://baker.mit.edu/bakerdiningreport.pdf>. The presentation is available at <http://www-tech.mit.edu/V127/N24/bakerdining/presentation.pdf>.

"We hope that MIT acknowledges that there are serious problems with the current [dining] system," David

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# Lack of Water Closes Kresge Auditorium on Friday

By Joyce Kwan

ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

A fault in Kresge Auditorium's water system occurred Friday, May 4, disrupting performances by the Festival Jazz Ensemble and the Musical Theatre Guild. The Campus Activities Complex shut down Kresge because of a failure in the fire sprinkler system related to a

lack of running water. Water was restored at around 9:40 p.m.

According to Phillip J. Walsh, director of the CAC, the failure in the water system was first discovered by service staff shortly after 5 p.m. According to Walsh, MIT Facilities was contacted immediately, but because staff had already left work, it took longer to respond to

the problem than usual. Kresge was closed at around 7:45 p.m.

Walsh said that maintenance staff had performed mechanical work earlier in the day and may have forgotten to turn a water valve back on.

The fault in the water system highlighted another problem, Walsh said. No alarm indicating the wa-

ter failure went off. It is uncertain if this resulted because no alarm is in the system or because the alarms failed to function, Walsh said.

The glitch in the water system disrupted two scheduled performances Friday night. The Musical Theatre Guild canceled its perfor-

**Kresge, Page 7**

## In Short

¶ A memorial debate between the MIT and Yale debate teams will be held in memory of Daniel J. Barclay '07 today in 10-250 at 8 p.m. and is open to the public. Barclay passed away last month.

¶ The Commencement Committee is looking for suggestions for guest speakers at MIT's 2008 commencement. Suggestions must be received by Tuesday, May 15. Send suggestions to Martin F. Holmes '08 (goholmes@mit.edu), Johnna D. Powell G (johnna@mit.edu), Gayle M. Gallagher (gayle@mit.edu), or Professor Eric Grimson (welg@csail.mit.edu).

¶ Tents are up on Kresge Oval in preparation for Wednesday's h2.0 Media Lab program, where new research initiatives focused on increasing mental and physical capabilities will be presented. Open to the public. See <http://h20.media.mit.edu/>.

¶ The Virtual Leadership Center, launched last week by the Division of Student Life, is available for students and groups to post and find leadership opportunities. See <http://studentleader.mit.edu/>.

¶ MIT Campus Dining is moving to the fourth floor of E19 May 31.

¶ Five MIT faculty members were elected to the National Academy of Sciences, the MIT News Office announced last week. Biology Professor Tania A. Baker, Chemistry Professor Moungi G. Bawendi, Meteorology Professor Kerry A. Emanuel, Computer Science Professor Silvio Micali, and Neuroscience Professor Peter H. Schiller are five of 72 newly elected members and 18 foreign associates. The total number of active members is 2,025.

Send news information and tips to [news@the-tech.mit.edu](mailto:news@the-tech.mit.edu).



Former UA Vice President Jessica H. Lowell '07 wrestles current UA Vice President (and Tech Campus Life columnist) Ruth F. Miller '07 in the mud pit at Senior Haus' Steer Roast. The match ended in a narrow victory for Lowell.

### News

Antipiracy code spreads online.

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Students at San Francisco school may have paid to change grades.

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### News

Coming soon: An Incan-inspired bridge spanning the space between two MIT buildings.

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# WORLD & NATION

## Beating by Guards Fails to Stop Voting, Iranian Students Say

By Nazila Fathi

THE NEW YORK TIMES

TEHRAN, IRAN

Students at Amir Kabir University fended off club-wielding university security guards on Monday and went ahead with elections for a pro-democracy association.

Despite the successful election at Amir Kabir, it is not clear that balloting for student associations will be allowed at other universities. The associations, a powerful center of support and communication among student democracy advocates, are a constant irritant to the government, which seeks to maintain strict control over politics and cultural norms.

The University of Science and Industry, where President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad taught before he was elected, has not been permitted to hold elections for the past two years. Students at Tehran University have vowed to hold a ballot, but have yet to do so.

Amir Kabir University has long been a center of student political activity. Students there chanted against Ahmadinejad when he visited the university late last year and set fire to posters bearing his likeness.

A student leader, Mehrdad Khalilpour, was arrested Monday by security officials, but two of his comrades managed to escape. Among other student leaders, Babak Zamanian was arrested late last month and Ahmad Ghassaban was arrested on Friday.

## Desegregated 50 Years Ago, Little Rock Is Still Divided

By Adam Nossiter

THE NEW YORK TIMES

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

Fifty years after the epic desegregation struggle at Central High School, the school district here is still riven by racial conflict, casting a pall on this year's ambitious commemorative efforts.

In the latest clash, white parents pack school board meetings to support the embattled superintendent, Roy Brooks, who is black. The blacks among the school board members look on grimly, determined to use their new majority to oust him. Whites insist that test scores and enrollment have improved under the brusque, hard-charging Brooks; blacks on the board are furious that he has cut the number of office and other non-teaching jobs and closed some schools.

The fight is all the more disturbing to some here because it erupted just as a federal judge declared Little Rock's schools finally desegregated, 50 years after a jeering white mob massed outside Central High to turn back integration.

## EADS Wants to Expand Military Work With U.S.

By Nicola Clark

THE NEW YORK TIMES

TOULOUSE, FRANCE

The European Aeronautic Defense and Space Co. wants to expand its military activities in the United States, and friendly governments in both France and Germany could help further that goal, the company's co-chief executive said on Monday.

"We now have two leaders who have no prejudice against the United States, who are not labeled as anti-American," the co-chief executive, Louis Gallois, said in an interview. "It could be a way to develop the relationship."

The winner in the French presidential election Sunday, Nicolas Sarkozy, is a center-right politician seen as more pro-American than his predecessor, Jacques Chirac. The German chancellor, Angela Merkel, has been making efforts to mend her country's relations with the United States, which have been strained in recent years, particularly over the war in Iraq.

"The generation has changed," Gallois said. "It could bring in some fresh air."

## As Top Aide Resigns, Future For Wolfowitz Still Uncertain

By John Donnelly

THE BOSTON GLOBE

WASHINGTON

World Bank president Paul D. Wolfowitz's efforts to keep his job floundered Monday as one of his top two aides resigned and several senior bank officials expressed concern in interviews that countries might withhold donations if his fate as head of the world's leading development institution isn't settled soon.

Many outside analysts have predicted that Wolfowitz either will step down or be fired by the bank board for his role in engineering a promotion and pay raise for his girlfriend, a former bank employee. A committee investigating the misconduct charges submitted its findings to Wolfowitz and the bank's board Monday. Those findings conclude that Wolfowitz's actions constitute a violation of bank rules on conflict of interest, according to published reports.

As the dispute has turned progressively uglier in the past four weeks, bank officials have said in interviews that they worry that the damage to the institution could take years to mend. Billions of dollars are at stake, they said, mostly in the form of contributions from rich countries

to a fund for developing nations. And the focus on Wolfowitz's ethics has put a harsh spotlight once again on an institution that has long battled international perceptions of being an ineffectual bureaucracy.

"The bank can only do a good job if there is a good and sound reputation," Dutch Finance Minister Wouter Bos told reporters Monday in Brussels. "I am concerned about this reputation at the moment."

The pressure on Wolfowitz increased Monday with the resignation of his aide, Kevin Kellems, who blamed the turmoil surrounding Wolfowitz. "Given the current environment surrounding the leadership ... it is very difficult to be effective in helping to advance the mission of the institution," he said.

But for many bank officials, Wolfowitz's management style, described as depending heavily on outsiders Kellems and a second aide, Robin Cleveland, was the source of much of the conflict with staff and donors. Kellems and Cleveland, who followed Wolfowitz from the US Defense Department to the bank, routinely disregarded input from senior bank officials. Cleveland could not be reached for comment, and Wol-

fowitz issued no public comment Monday.

"Three people can't run the World Bank," said one senior bank official who is an expert in African development, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of losing his job.

Kellems's departure was taken by many analysts as a sign that Wolfowitz, too, would soon leave. But others suggested it also could be a sign that Wolfowitz is hoping to build a new management team in order to save his job - if the board lets him.

"It may be a last-minute effort to stave off a vote of no-confidence, but it is too little, too late," said Manish Bapna, executive director of the Bank Information Center, a watchdog group. "Kellems's resignation would not appease his many critics inside or outside the bank, nor should it."

Wolfowitz, one of the architects of the Bush administration's war in Iraq, took the World Bank post with a pledge to fight corruption as his top priority. When the details became public last month of his involvement in negotiating the pay raise and promotion of his companion, Shaha Ali Riza, he apologized and said he made a mistake.

## Mass. Governor Patrick Moves To Reshape Executive Branch

By Andrea Estes

THE BOSTON GLOBE

Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick, in his latest effort to reshape his administration, has informed all commissioners and agency leaders appointed by his Republican predecessors that they must reapply for their jobs and will be notified by June 1 if they can remain in their positions.

The letter, sent to about 50 GOP holdovers late last week, addresses one of the central concerns of key state Democrats, who have argued that the new governor has not acted decisively enough to put his imprint on an executive branch ruled by Republicans for the last 16 years.

"The governor has asked each secretariat to build a team that shares this administration's priorities and visions," said Patrick spokesman

Kyle Sullivan. "The letter is part of a process that is ongoing since the administration took office and that we expect to be concluded by the end of the month."

An administration source said that Patrick would probably reappoint a handful of the commissioners and department heads, but that most will be asked to leave.

Among those notified was Harry Spence, commissioner of the Department of Social Services, who has faced criticism for the death of children in DSS care, including four-year-old Rebecca Riley, and for the case of Haleigh Poutre, who was beaten into a coma in 2005. The agency was accused of trying to prematurely remove the 11-year-old from life support.

Since suffering a series of embarrassing gaffes in his first two

months in office, Patrick has made several personnel announcements, aimed at surrounding himself with a more seasoned inner circle and getting his administration on a new track.

Just three months into his tenure, he replaced his chief of staff, a political novice, with Doug Rubin, who helped devise Patrick's come-from-behind victory last year.

Soon after taking over, Rubin gathered about 15 long-time Democrats to help Patrick promote his agenda and navigate the labyrinth of internal politics on Beacon Hill. The strategists agreed that the administration must quickly focus on removing the vestiges of 16 years of Republican rule and replace those managers with Patrick loyalists, according to several people who attended.

## WEATHER

### The Heat Is On

By Michael J. Ring

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

After the generally dreary weather of March and April, anyone looking forward to summer will surely enjoy an early taste this week, as temperatures flirt with 80°F (27°C) in the coming days.

The upper-level flow over the United States for the next few days will be dominated by a southwesterly jet. The flow is navigating around a trough over the Four Corners before turning toward us. This will spread warmer air across the eastern United States for the next few days, and the Boston area will be no exception.

With few clouds today and tomorrow, the days will be warm, but the temperatures will drop sharply in the evening as Earth radiates to space, so while the daytime temperatures suggest dressing in T-shirts and shorts, slightly heavier clothing might be needed in the evening.

#### Extended Forecast

**Today:** Sunny and warm. High 80°F (27°C).

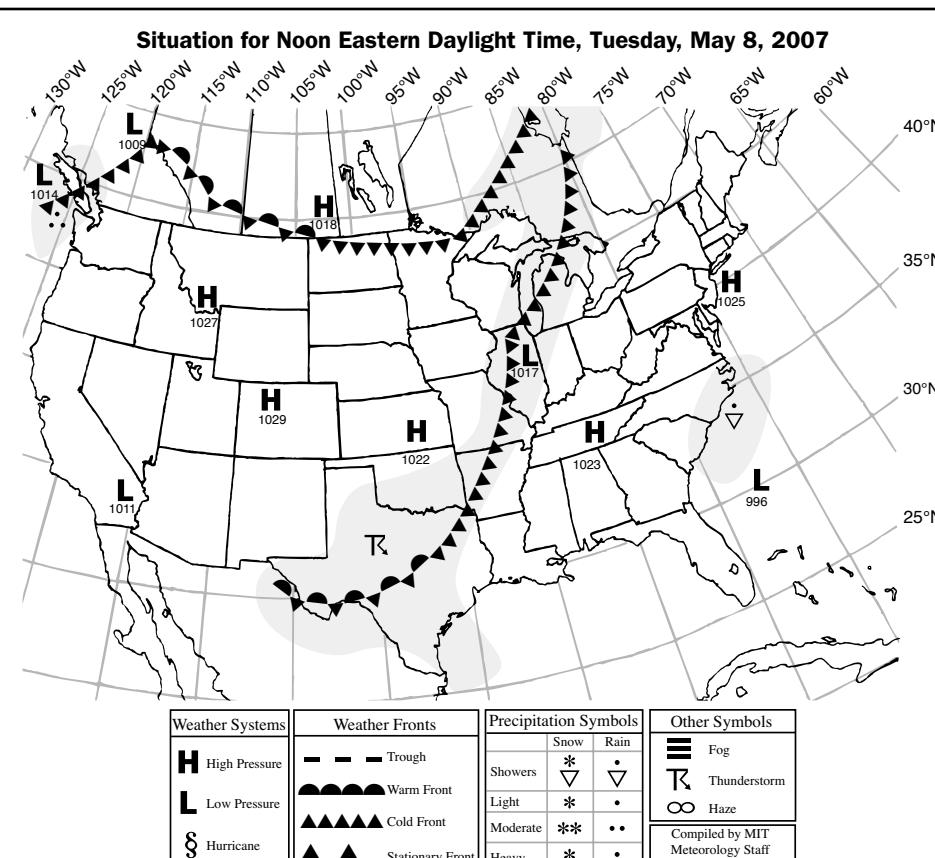
**Tonight:** Clear and cool. Low 50°F (10°C).

**Tomorrow:** Sunny and warm once more. High 80°F (27°C).

**Tomorrow night:** Clouding up, and not as cool. Low 57°F (14°C).

**Thursday:** Cloudy but still warm. Scattered showers in the evening. High 78°F (25°C).

**Friday:** Scattered showers and cooler, but still mild. High 70°F (22°C).



# Report on Child Deaths Finds Some Hope in Poorest Nations

By Celia W. Dugger

THE NEW YORK TIMES

The rate at which young children perish has worsened most disastrously over the past 15 years in Iraq, hard hit by both sanctions and war, and in Botswana, Zimbabwe and Swaziland, devastated by AIDS, according to a report released Monday by Save the Children. But researchers also found against-the-odds progress is some of the world's poorest nations.

Bangladesh has profoundly improved the chances that a child would survive by promoting family planning, a strategy that has enabled women to have fewer children, space births and strengthen their own health and that of their babies.

Nepal, despite a decade-long Maoist insurgency, has halved the death rate of children under age five. It has enlisted the help of 50,000 mothers, most of them illiterate, who have squeezed vitamin A drops into the mouths of every child, hauled laggards in for vaccinations and even diagnosed pneumonia and dispensed medicines to combat it.

And Malawi, with an extreme shortage of doctors and nurses, has

made surprising gains by taking simple steps that require no professional skills, for example distributing nets that protect children from malarial mosquitoes.

"In 2007, when we know what to do and how little it costs, that 28,000 kids are still dying each day is just plain wrong," said David Oot, a public health expert on the team that produced the Save the Children report, "State of the World's Mothers: Saving the Lives of Children Under 5."

Despite many hopeful stories, broad progress against infant and child mortality has flagged since international health agencies began a campaign to reduce deaths 25 years ago, the researchers concluded. By the end of the 1980s, global rates of child mortality had fallen 20 percent, and the lives of 12 million children were saved.

"Much of the momentum behind the child survival revolution has now been lost, and gains achieved in the 1980s and early 1990s have slowed or reversed," the report says. "Under-5 mortality declined by only 10 percent from the early 1990s to

2000."

Among the 60 developing countries where 94 percent of the child deaths occurred, 20 have either made no progress or have regressed, while 24 have cut death rates of children under five by at least 20 percent.

Iraq experienced the most staggering rise in under-age-five mortality — 150 percent over 15 years. Since the war began in 2003, deteriorating health services, rising inflation and electricity shortages have worsened living conditions, the report said. In 2005, about 122,000 Iraqi children died before their fifth birthdays.

In countries that progressed, a focus on family planning was central to progress, the report said. In the five countries that made the greatest strides in reducing child deaths — Egypt, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Nepal and the Philippines — women's use of contraceptives rose and fertility rates declined. In those countries, mothers were less likely to be physically depleted by having too many babies in too short a time. With fewer children, families were also able to invest more in the care of each child.

## A Fan of the American Way Takes The Reins in France After Election

By Elaine Sciolino

THE NEW YORK TIMES

PARIS

Two days before the first round of the presidential election last month, Nicolas Sarkozy donned a red checked shirt, jeans and cowboy boots, mounted a small white horse named Universe and rode around the Camargue country in France's deep south. A gaggle of reporters and cameramen followed him in a cart pulled by a tractor. The black bulls on the nearby pasture stayed away.

"A vague resemblance to the look of George W. Bush on his Texan ranch," is how the left-leaning newspaper *Liberation* described Sarkozy, who was elected president Sunday, beating the Socialist candidate Ségolène Royal in a runoff. The newspaper dismissed the event as a media stunt, saying, "Everything for the image, right up until the last minute."

Sarkozy is unabashedly pro-American, a man who openly proclaims his love of Ernest Hemingway, Steve McQueen and Sylvester Stallone and his admiration for America's strong work ethic and its belief in upward mobility.

The last film that made Sarkozy cry was Robert Altman's "A Prairie Home Companion." He once said he wanted Gloria Gaynor's "I Will Survive" as his victory song. He calls himself "proud" to wear the label "Sarkozy the American."

In his acceptance speech Sunday night, Sarkozy reached out to the United States, signaling his desire to end the tension that existed with Washington during Chirac's presidency.

Addressing his "American friends," Sarkozy said, "I want to tell them that France will always be by their side when they need her, but that friendship is also accepting the fact that friends can think differently."

He was so pleased with the message that he told an American friend just before the speech, "I'm going to talk about America!"

There must have been relief in the White House on Sunday that Bush didn't have to call Royal to congratulate her. After all, she said during the campaign that she would never kneel before Bush the way she suggested her opponent had done. She tried to tar Sarkozy as an imitator of what

she called Bush's phony compassionate conservatism. She even told a Hezbollah lawmaker in Lebanon last December that she agreed with him when he talked about the "unlimited dementia" of the Bush administration.

Instead, with the imminent departure of Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain, Bush was able to congratulate the man who may well become his new best friend in Europe.

"They had a friendly, very friendly chat," said David Martinon, Sarkozy's chief of staff, in a telephone interview. "Mr. Sarkozy wants to improve the relationship with the United States, to renew it. There's a need for a change. There has to be a way to restore confidence."

Sarkozy is Bush's kind of guy: brash, tough-talking and proud of it. Sarkozy's vow to rid the troubled suburbs of France of delinquent youths — "scum," he calls them — is the French equivalent of Bush's vow to "Bring 'em on."

Both men are teetotalers. Both are disciplined exercisers: Sarkozy jogs, but like Bush, also is a fearsome bike rider.

## Israeli Prime Minister Olmert Survives 3 No-Confidence Votes in Parliament

By Isabel Kershner

THE NEW YORK TIMES

JERUSALEM

Israel's prime minister, Ehud Olmert, survived three no-confidence votes against his government on Monday, part of the political fallout from a harsh report on the country's leadership during last summer's war in Lebanon.

Olmert's governing coalition affords him a large majority in the 120-seat Parliament, and the no-confidence motions were all rejected by a comfortable margin. Nevertheless, the results revealed cracks in support from Parliament members belonging to the coalition: at least 16 of them were either absent, voted no confidence or abstained.

The motions were brought on the opening day of the Parliament's summer session by rightist, leftist and religious opposition parties.

Benjamin Netanyahu, the leader of the rightist Likud Party, called for new elections and told the Cabinet, which has pledged to carry out the recommendations of the war report, "You are not the solution, you

are the problem."

The leader of the leftist Meretz Party, Yossi Beilin, said that the lack of confidence had penetrated the public, the Parliament and even Olmert's party, Kadima. Beilin told the Parliament that a minister in Kadima, whom he did not identify, had told him that the prime minister "poses a national danger to Israel."

Furthermore, the Labor Party, which sits in the coalition, is holding primaries for the party leadership in late May, and several contenders have already stated their intention of taking the party out of the coalition if Olmert remains in office.

Still, there is no consensus on who, or what, should come next. Netanyahu has come out as a favorite for the prime minister's job in recent opinion polls. For that reason, Beilin has argued that new elections are not necessary, and that change can come about through parliamentary procedures instead. According to the polls, at least two-thirds of the public would like to see Olmert go.

In northern Gaza on Monday, Israeli air force planes fired on a car that army officials said was laden with explosives and on its way to launch rockets into Israel. The Islamic Jihad group, which has claimed responsibility for several rocket attacks in recent days, said that two of its members escaped from the car before it was hit. Hospital officials in Gaza said that one passer-by was wounded in the Israeli strike.

According to an Israeli army spokesman, 14 rockets have been fired at Israel from Gaza since Friday. One rocket hit a house next to a kindergarten in the Israeli border town of Sderot on Monday morning, but caused no injuries.

The eclectic nature of the opposition to Olmert could be seen at a protest camp set up by two students near the prime minister's residence in Jerusalem. Zichri Weiner, 27, and Itai Harari, 28, walked here from Tel Aviv, pitched their tents on the sidewalk and called on the Israeli public to join them in their demand for Olmert to resign.

## Mass. to Inspect Small Chemical, Waste Plants

By David Abel

THE BOSTON GLOBE

DANVERS, MASS.

Danvers neighborhood last November, state officials Monday outlined the first federally approved plan to inspect small chemical and hazardous waste plants that they said could pose "a significant danger to populations in the event of a problem or accident."

Teams from the state departments of fire services and environmental protection will join local fire officials to inspect 15 smaller plants in the next two months and 25 more by year's end. Owners who do not cooperate may face administrative search warrants.

The targeted plants were chosen based on how close they are to neighborhoods, the types or amounts of chemicals or waste materials they produce, and their inspection histories. Officials would not identify the plants to be inspected, but they said they are selecting those that pose the most danger among some 15,000 smaller plants across the state.

"We don't want to single out publicly, prior to inspection, any company or facility in a way that implies it is in any way unsafe or that its neighbors face any particular danger," said Ed Coletta, a spokesman for the state Department of Environmental Protection. "The identification of these 40 facilities is simply a way of prioritizing inspections. Only if we discover unsafe conditions and conclude that an enforcement action is warranted will we name a facility publicly."

## ABN Amro Rejects Royal Bank of Scotland Bid

By Julia Werdiger

THE NEW YORK TIMES

LONDON

ABN Amro on Monday rejected a \$24.5-billion bid from the Royal Bank of Scotland Group and two partners for its American unit, LaSalle Bank, putting the fate of the Dutch bank at the center of one of a large and complex takeover battle more into the hands of shareholders.

ABN Amro said the offer from the consortium was linked to too many conditions and made it difficult to recommend to shareholders as superior even though its amount exceeded an earlier \$21-billion offer from Bank of America. The rejection increases the tension between ABN Amro's board and the rival consortium, which also includes Banco Santander Central Hispano and Fortis, a Belgian financial services group.

On April 25, the Royal Bank of Scotland consortium said it planned to offer 72.2 billion euros, or \$98.5 billion, mostly in cash, for ABN Amro, but that the bid depended on the Dutch bank's retaining LaSalle. Such an offer would exceed an all-share bid by Barclays worth 65.3 billion euros, which ABN Amro's management had recommended on April 23.

ABN Amro shareholders have not yet voted on any offer or option related to this deal; it is up to the board of management there to frame the choices and call a special shareholder meeting to present them for a vote. The Royal Bank of Scotland consortium can now make a hostile bid for ABN Amro by going directly to shareholders without a recommendation from the management board. Such an acquisition, however, could prove especially difficult because the combined institution needs the broad cooperation of senior management and employees to bring about a successful integration.

## Astronomers Report One For the Record Books

By Dennis Overbye

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Kaboom indeed.

In a cascade of superlatives that belies the traditional cerebral reserve of their profession, astronomers reported Monday that they had seen the brightest and most powerful stellar explosion ever recorded.

The cataclysm — a monster more than a hundred times as energetic as the typical supernova in which the more massive stars end their lives — may be an example, they said, of a completely new type of explosion. Such a blast, proposed but never seen, would explain how the earliest and most massive stars in the universe ended their lives and strewed new elements across space to fertilize future stars and planets.

"It is quite possibly the most massive star that has ever been seen to explode," said Nathan Smith of the University of California, Berkeley, who estimated it as "freakishly massive," about 150 times the mass of the Sun.

Smith led a team of astronomers from Berkeley and the University of Texas who have submitted a paper about the supernova to *The Astrophysical Journal* and discussed the results on Monday at a news conference from NASA headquarters in Washington. "We're really excited about this," he said. "If it really is what we think it is, it forces us to rethink how massive stars die."

## China Tells Little About Illness That Kills Pigs, Officials Say

By Keith Bradsher

THE NEW YORK TIMES

HONG KONG

A mysterious epidemic is killing pigs in southeastern China, but international and Hong Kong authorities said Monday that the Chinese government was providing little information about it or the contaminated wheat gluten that has caused death and illness in animals.

The lack of even basic details is reviving longstanding questions about whether China is willing to share information about health and food safety issues with potentially global implications.

The Chinese government — and particularly the government of Guangdong Province, which is next to Hong Kong — was criticized in 2003 for concealing information about the SARS virus when it emerged in Foshan, 95 miles northwest of Hong Kong. After SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome, spread to Hong Kong and around the world, top Chinese officials promised to improve disclosure.

But officials in Hong Kong, at the World Health Organization and at the Food and Agriculture Organization said Monday that they had been told almost nothing about the latest pig deaths and that they had been given limited details about the apparently unrelated problem of wheat gluten contamination.

# OPINION



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## Corrections

The May 1 article "Baseball Places 2nd After Two Wins Yield Berth in Title Game" stated that the baseball team made it to the title game of their conference tournament, when in fact they were eliminated in the semifinal round. That same article was written by James Kramer and Travis Johnson, though credit was mistakenly given to Mindy Brauer and Travis Johnson.

## Letters To The Editor

### Laws Obsolete, Not Gitmo

In his recent article, Shankar Mukherji argued that the United States should shut down the prison at Guantanamo Bay. I don't believe that will solve anything, because the fundamental problem with what's going on down there is not the base itself. International and U.S. laws are obsolete, having been written in a different era for a different kind of war, and only revising the law to deal with the realities of modern conflict can fix the situation.

Traditionally, some soldiers would be captured during a war. These prisoners would be treated humanely according to the Third Geneva Convention. They were not entitled to a trial of any kind: they were simply held until the end of the war. Enemy prisoners of war were entitled to treatment according to GCIII, domestic criminals were entitled to a speedy and public trial, and no one was entitled to both.

That doesn't work any more. We used to be able to avoid capturing non-combatants because they were not in uniform and did not carry weapons, while soldiers did. Today our enemies blend in with civilian populations, so whether someone is a combatant or not is often unclear.

This wouldn't be such a big deal if it looked like the wars of the twenty-first century would be clean and quick. Spending a year in a prisoner of war camp unjustly is unfortunate, but it doesn't completely destroy your life. Unfortunately, future wars are not likely to be clean or quick. Al Qaeda will be around for decades, and will likely be in direct conflict with the United States for that entire time. Hamas will be targeting Israeli civilians while using their own civilians as human shields for the foreseeable future. Twenty-first century conflicts are likely to be very long. International laws based on a notion of prisoners of war from an era when major industrial states were clashing in Europe for a few years at a time are now obsolete.

Many international laws that people seem to want to apply to our current enemies explicitly do not apply to them. GCIII applies to enemy soldiers captured in uniform, to enemy civilians in

military support roles with military-issued identification, to members of militias or resistance organizations who wear a uniform or an emblem that identifies them as fighters at a distance and carry their weapons openly, and to resistance fighters whose country was attacked suddenly such that they didn't have time to prepare proper uniforms. None of these are true of either al Qaeda fighters or Iraqi insurgents. People suspected of being in those groups are sitting in limbo at Guantanamo, but they are also in limbo with respect to international law.

International laws and the laws of individual countries locked in conflict need to be revised to reflect the essential rights of civilians and the realities of modern wars. Capturing suspects and holding them until the end of the war won't work, because that will be a very long time for someone who may be innocent to rot in prison. Requiring a trial with the same standards of proof as civilian courts won't work because it would not permit U.S. soldiers to detain individuals found to have weapons clearly intended for use against us. What crime would you charge someone with, under U.S. law, for possessing an IED in a country where U.S. law has no jurisdiction?

The question of human shields is another that needs to be addressed. Last summer, Hezbollah chose to fire rockets from civilian areas instead of unpopulated ones. Why? Because Hezbollah loves it when Lebanese civilians are killed. It inflames world opinion against Israel and foments support among the Lebanese. International law should reflect the moral responsibility of Hezbollah for the civilians who were killed as collateral damage in attacks on Hezbollah fighters and arms.

I am not sure what standard of proof would be appropriate for the people at Guantanamo, but indefinite detainment on nothing more than suspicion seems wrong, and releasing likely terrorists into the wild seems dangerous. I am also not sure of what body should oversee the treatment of these prisoners. I don't trust the international community to look out for my security. I am sure, however, that closing down Guantanamo will not solve the problem while these holes in international law still exist.

Jeffrey S. Cohen G

### MIT to Blame For Jones Incident

MIT must share the blame for this problem in failing to check her résumé in 28 years, since they think it is so important. Shame on them. This fine lady's accomplishments have certainly outweighed a 28-year-old indiscretion and MIT should have been handled the matter privately rather than ruining her remaining life with totally unnecessary publicity. Perhaps (jokingly, of course) those whom she admitted should be disqualified. Alumni considering large financial donations please take note.

Joe S. Apelman '46

### Jones Sets Bad Example For Applicants

In her public apology, Ms. Jones said she was "... deeply sorry for this [making false claims on her résumé] and for disappointing so many in the MIT community and beyond" who supported her, believed in her and gave her extraordinary opportunities.

Some very important people are never mentioned. I direct your attention to the other candidates for her positions who might have had those same opportunities — if Ms. Jones had not won out over them, partly thanks to false claims. Ms. Jones left in the dust hard-working, deserving people who didn't realize how well deception and embellishment can pay off — or whose conscience held them back. In a self-serving way, Ms. Jones uses an apology to remind us of how many people she helped, as others might have also done, without lying.

Of the 30-35 students I went to classes with back in my NY high school, six went to MIT. I would hate to think of any of them being denied acceptance there — or a job in the future — due to unethical behavior on the part of candidates practicing the "Jones Method."

Seth Wittner

*Wittner was a part-time MIT employee from '71-'72.*

## GOP DEBATE



### Opinion Policy

**Editorials** are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of Chairman Michael McGraw-Herdeg, Editor in Chief Marie Y. Thibault, Managing Editor Austin Chu, Executive Editor Rosa Cao, and Opinion Editors Barun Singh and Aditya Kohli.

**Dissents** are the opinions of signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

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Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted.

*The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

**Guest columns** are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community and have the author's name in italics. Columns without italics are written by *Tech* staff.

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May 8, 2007

# COMICS FUN PAGES

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The  
Tech

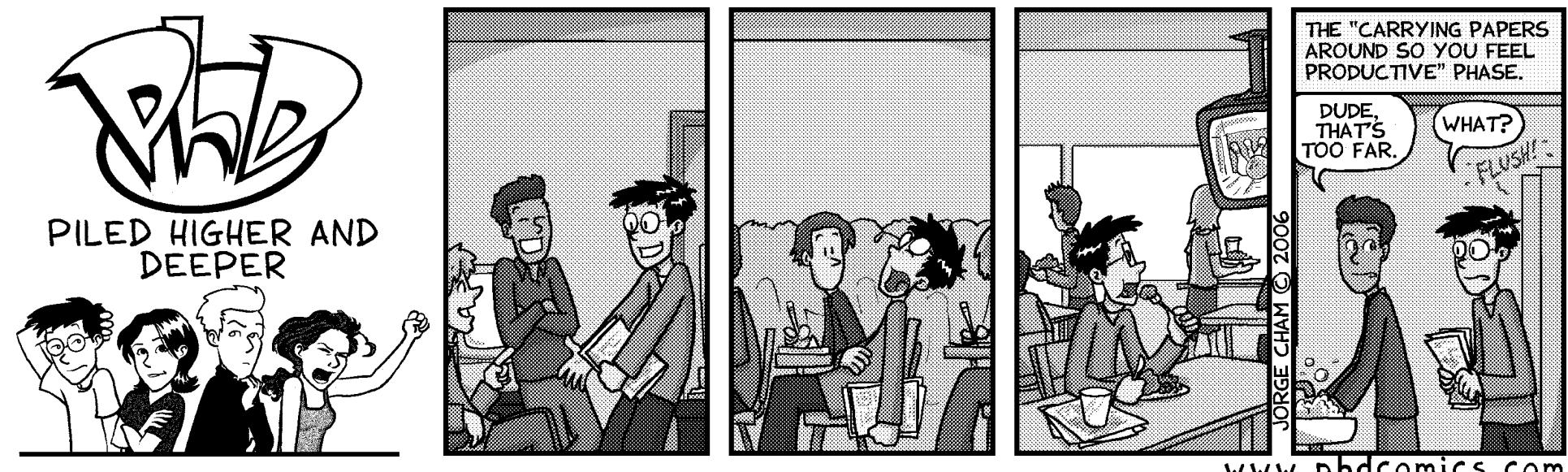
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by Roberto Perez-Franco G

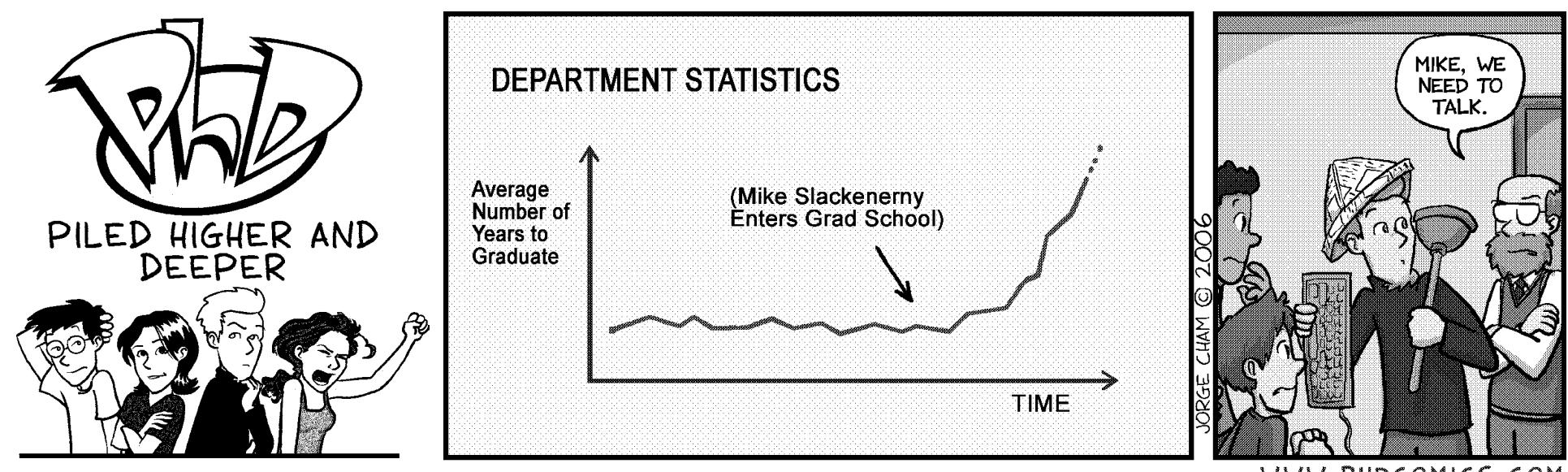


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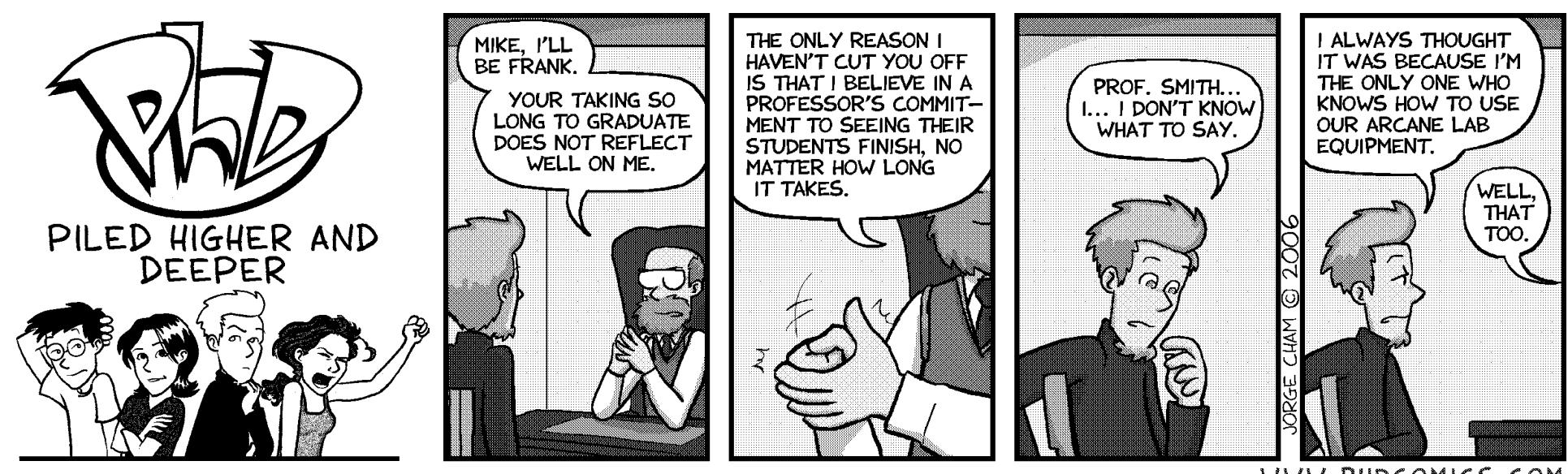
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# Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Doonesbury Flashbacks

# Dilbert® by Scott Adams

## Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 9

**ACROSS**

1 Gets by  
5 Additional  
9 Indy driver  
14 Duran Duran's type of rock  
15 Screen symbol  
16 Writer Zola  
17 Richard of "Chicago"  
18 D-Day town  
19 Stinky  
20 Vends phones  
23 Radar's quaff  
24 Like a drum head  
25 Finishes  
27 Pack in a carton  
30 Leg part  
32 Ones with visions  
33 Good dishes, perhaps  
37 Pop  
38 Heals  
39 Early Coloradoans  
40 Not quite enough  
42 Rusty hinge noise  
43 Challenge  
44 Top prizes  
45 Get the wrong sum  
48 Filmmaker  
Riefenstahl  
49 God of war  
50 Be aware of

change?

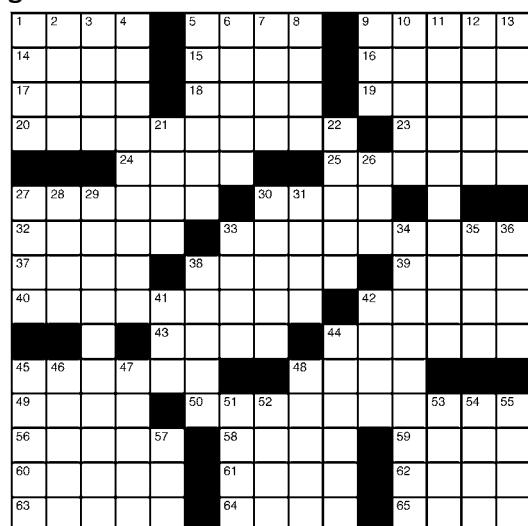
56 Act, biblically  
58 Insert ammo  
59 Capital of Qatar  
60 Musician Previn  
61 Zeus' consort  
62 Ukrainian city  
63 Actress Cicely  
64 ASPCA part  
65 Eld

**DOWN**

1 Breakfast staple  
2 Swiss abstract painter  
3 English noble  
4 Had some suspicions  
5 Slip-up  
6 Two quartets together  
7 Throw, as dice  
8 Hydroxyl compound  
9 Ring off.  
10 Improve  
11 Mentions locations  
12 Secretary of War Root  
13 Load more salsa on one's chip  
21 Lip  
22 Tennis champ Monica

26 Gridiron division  
27 Old gas?  
28 Kind of Dodge  
29 Surrenders progeny  
30 Wendell of "Rear Window"  
31 Once more  
33 Neutral shade  
34 In haste  
35 With no ice  
36 Queries  
38 Campus girls  
41 Strange

42 Prez's title  
44 Be sustained by  
45 Furious with  
46 Literary device  
47 Houston player  
48 Exams for would-be attys.  
51 Ms. Fitzgerald  
52 Negatives  
53 \_\_ Hamburgo, Brazil  
54 God of thunder  
55 Rescue  
57 Female lobster

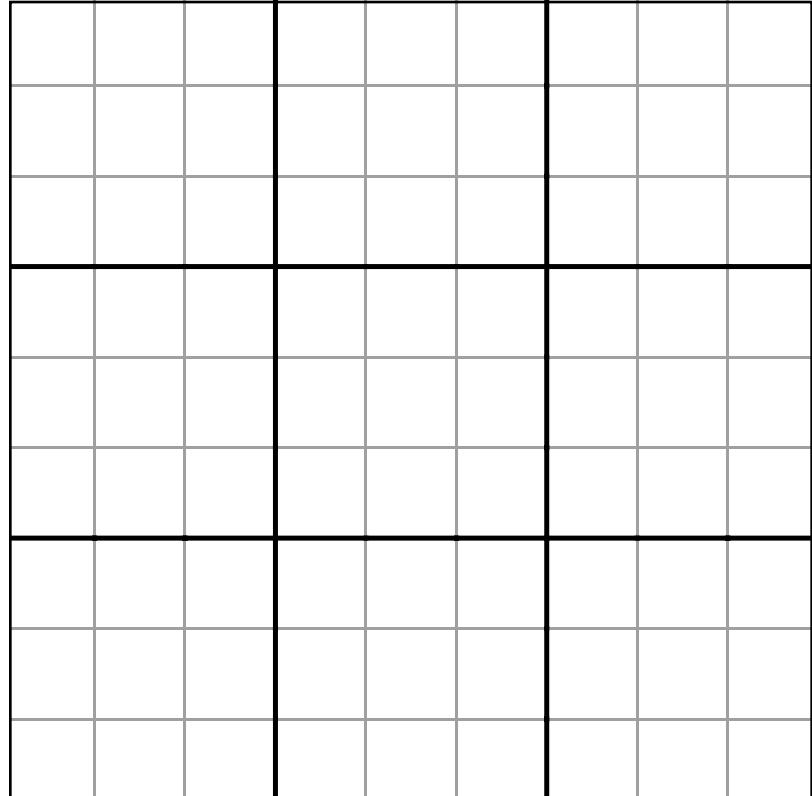


## su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Solution on page 7.

Solution, tips, and computer program at <http://www.sudoku.com>

## Bonus Crossword

solution, page 9

**ACROSS**

1 Longhand style  
8 Proximal  
15 Mid-ocean  
16 Director  
Teshigahara  
17 Ways up  
18 Stretchy  
19 Ermine in a light coat  
20 Immune system member  
22 Press coverage  
23 Lecture  
24 Returned from dreamland  
25 Wicked  
26 Self-regard  
27 Frightening  
28 Solfeggio  
29 Tape over  
31 Gene and Grace  
32 Harrison or Henry  
33 Magnani or

Pavlova

34 King Arthur's paradise  
37 Planting occasion  
41 Brief summation  
42 Pierces with horns  
43 Bit  
44 Casual talk  
45 Trojan War epic  
46 Turner of films  
47 Concealed  
48 Young salmon  
49 Top Olympic medals  
50 Polar features  
52 Basque or Spaniard  
54 Author Leonard and others  
55 Tell the story  
56 In an unkempt manner  
57 More seasick or jealous?

**DOWN**

1 Roller \_\_  
2 Steal limelight  
3 Change hues  
4 Move furtively  
5 Money \_\_ everything!  
6 VFW member  
7 Toward the rising sun  
8 Impudent  
9 French textile center  
10 By mouth  
11 Mayday letters  
12 Summery  
13 In a glossy manner  
14 Makes laugh  
21 Firewood unit  
24 Potential oak  
25 Dazzling success  
27 Reporter's exclusive

28 Transmits  
30 Key of "Eroica"  
31 Delivered a low blow?  
33 Supplying blood with oxygen  
34 Moore and Bunker  
35 Conveyance  
36 Educational environment  
37 Dirt  
38 Venetian, e.g.  
39 Authorization to act  
40 "Lou Grant" star  
42 Sleek  
45 Urge to action  
46 "Casablanca" co-star  
48 Indian gown  
49 "Pretty Woman" man  
51 \$-due mail  
53 Musical time unit

**ACROSS**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14  
15 16  
17 18  
19 20 21 22  
23 24 25  
26 27 28  
29 30 31  
32 33  
34 35 36 37 38 39 40  
41 42 43  
44 45  
46 47 48 49  
50 51 52 53  
54 55  
56 57

# Jazz Ensemble Plays on After Kresge Closes Friday

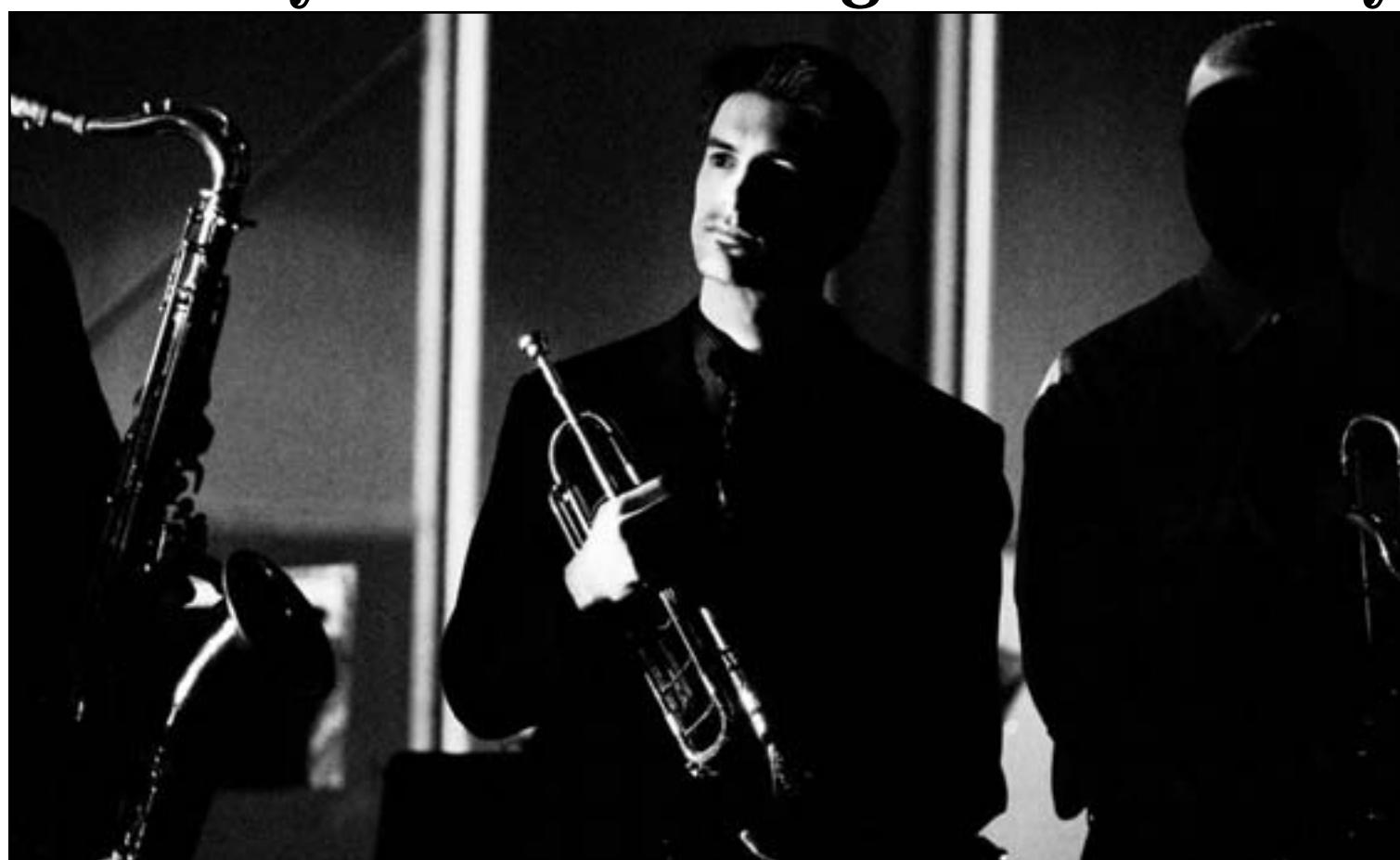
Kresge, from Page 1

mance of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* and returned money to all ticket holders. The MTG was aware of the failure as it was setting up for the show and was told to evacuate minutes before show time, said Carlos Cardenas '09, producer of the MTG musical.

The cast and orchestra waited outside for about one hour before they were allowed back into the building to change and retrieve their belongings, said Cristina A. Thomas G, MTG stage manager. Thomas said that the CAC staff efficiently informed the MTG members once the problem was fixed so that the members were able to give a free matinee performance the following afternoon, Saturday, May 5.

According to Aseem Kishore '08, who plays the trombone as part of the Festival Jazz Ensemble, security guards were stationed outside Kresge barring people from entrance at around 7:45 p.m. when he arrived to prepare for the performance. The director decided to continue the show, however, and staged the performance outside Kresge, Kishore said.

"It ended up being a really good show," Kishore said, adding that the audience seemed to enjoy hearing the concert in nice weather.



MICHAEL MCGRAW-HERDEG—THE TECH

Christopher N. Kottke G (center, trumpet), Shanker S. Raman '09 (left, saxophone) and Cristian J. Derr '08 (right, trombone) play at the Festival Jazz Ensemble's Friday concert "Shades of Change." Kresge Auditorium was unexpectedly unavailable, so the group performed on Kresge Oval.

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# In Web Uproar, DVD Antipiracy Code Spreads Wildly

*Cease-and-Desist Letters Spark Proliferation of Code on User-Submitted News Sites Including Digg.com*

By Brad Stone

THE NEW YORK TIMES

SAN FRANCISCO

There is open revolt on the Web.

Sophisticated Internet users banded together early last week to publish and widely distribute a secret code used by the technology and

movie industries to prevent piracy of high-definition movies.

The broader distribution of the code may not pose a serious threat to the studios, because it requires some technical expertise and specialized software to use it to defeat the copy protection on Blu-ray and HD DVD

discs. But its relentless spread has already become a lesson in mob power on the Internet and the futility of censorship in the digital world.

An online uproar came in response to a series of cease-and-desist letters from lawyers for a group of companies that use the copy protec-

tion system, demanding that the code be removed from several Web sites.

Rather than wiping out the code — a string of 32 digits and letters in a specialized counting system — the legal notices sparked its proliferation on Web sites, in chat rooms, inside cleverly doctored digital photographs and on user-submitted news sites like Digg.com.

"It's a perfect example of how a lawyer's involvement can turn a little story into a huge story," said Fred von Lohmann, a staff lawyer at the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a digital rights group. "Now that they started sending threatening letters, the Internet has turned the number into the latest celebrity. It is now guaranteed eternal fame."

The number is being enshrined in some creative ways. Keith Burgon, a 24-year-old musician in Goldens Bridge, N.Y., grabbed his acoustic guitar on Tuesday and improvised a melody while soulfully singing the code. He posted the song to YouTube, where it was played more than 45,000 times.

"I thought it was a source of comedy that they were trying so futilely to quell the spread of this number," Mr. Burgon said. "The ironic thing is, because they tried to quiet it down it's the most famous number on the Internet."

During his work break on Tuesday, James Bertelson, an engineer in Vancouver, Wash., joined the movement and created a Web page featuring nothing but the number, obscured in an encrypted format that only insiders could appreciate. He then submitted his page to Digg, a news site where users vote on what is important. Despite its sparse offerings, his submission received nearly 5,000 votes and was propelled onto Digg's main page.

"For most people this is about freedom of speech, and an industry that thinks that just because it has high-priced lawyers it has the final say," Mr. Bertelson said.

Messages left for those lawyers and the trade organization they represent, the Advanced Access Content System Licensing Administrator, which controls the encryption system known as A.A.C.S., were not answered. In an e-mail message, a representative for the group said only that it "is looking into the matter and has no further comment at this time."

The organization is backed by technology companies like I.B.M., Intel, Microsoft and Sony and movie studios like Disney and Warner Brothers, which is owned by Time Warner.

The secret code actually stopped being a secret in February, when a hacker ferreted it out of his movie-playing software and posted it on a Web bulletin board. From there it spread through the network of technology news sites and blogs.

Last month, lawyers for the trade group began sending out cease-and-desist letters, claiming that Web pages carrying the code violated its intellectual property rights under the 1998 Digital Millennium Copyright Act. One letter was sent to Google, which runs a blog network at blogspot.com.

The campaign to remove the number from circulation went largely unnoticed until news of the letters hit Digg. The 25-employee company in San Francisco, acting on the advice of its lawyers, removed posting submissions about the secret number from its database earlier this week, then explained the move to its readers on Tuesday afternoon.

The removals were seen by many Digg users as a capitulation to corporate interests and an assault on free speech. Some also said that the trade group that promotes the HD-DVD format, which uses A.A.C.S. protection, had advertised on a weekly Digg-related video podcast.

Last Tuesday afternoon and into the evening, stories about or including the code swamped Digg's main page, which the company says gets 16 million readers each month. At 9 p.m. West Coast time, the company surrendered to mob sentiment.

"You'd rather see Digg go down fighting than bow down to a bigger company," wrote Kevin Rose, Digg's founder, in a blog post. "We hear you, and effective immediately we won't delete stories or comments containing the code and will deal with whatever the consequences might be." If Digg loses, he wrote, "at least we died trying."

Jay Adelson, Digg's chief executive, said in an interview that the site was disregarding the advice of its lawyers. "We just decided that it is more important to stand by our users," he said. Regarding the company's exposure to lawsuits he said, "we are just going to prepare and do our best."

The episode recalls earlier acts of online rebellion against the encryption that protects media files from piracy. Some people believe that such systems unfairly limit their freedom to listen to music and watch movies on whatever devices they choose.

In 1999, hackers created a program called DeCSS that broke the software protecting standard DVDs and posted it on the hacker site 2600.com. The Motion Picture Association of America sued, and Judge Lewis A. Kaplan of Federal District Court in Manhattan, citing the 1998 digital copyright act, sided with the movie industry.

The DVD code disappeared from the 2600 site, but nevertheless resurfaced in playful haiku, on T-shirts and even in a movie in which the code scrolled across the screen like the introductory crawl in "Star Wars."

In both cases, the users who joined the revolt and published the codes may be exposing themselves to legal risk. Chris Sprigman, an associate professor at the University of Virginia School of Law, said that under the digital copyright act, propagating even parts of techniques intended to circumvent copyright was illegal.

However, with thousands of Internet users now impudently breaking the law, Mr. Sprigman said that the entertainment and technology industries would have no realistic way to pursue a legal remedy. "It's a gigantic can of worms they've opened, and now it will be awfully hard to do anything with lawsuits," he said.

MIT's Association of Taiwanese Students presents



Strait to  
**TAIWAN**

friday  
may 11

STA**T** CENTER  
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## **The Sloan Subject Bidding (SloanBid) System Bidding Dates for Fall, 2007 Courses**

**<https://sloanbid.mit.edu>**

**First time logging in? Use your MIT ID as both your log in and password. Follow instructions on the site to change your password or retrieve lost passwords.**

**Institute-wide bidding for Sloan subjects:**

Opens 9:00 a.m., Thursday, May 10  
Closes 5:00 p.m., Monday, May 21

**Waitlist Round for closed Sloan subjects:**

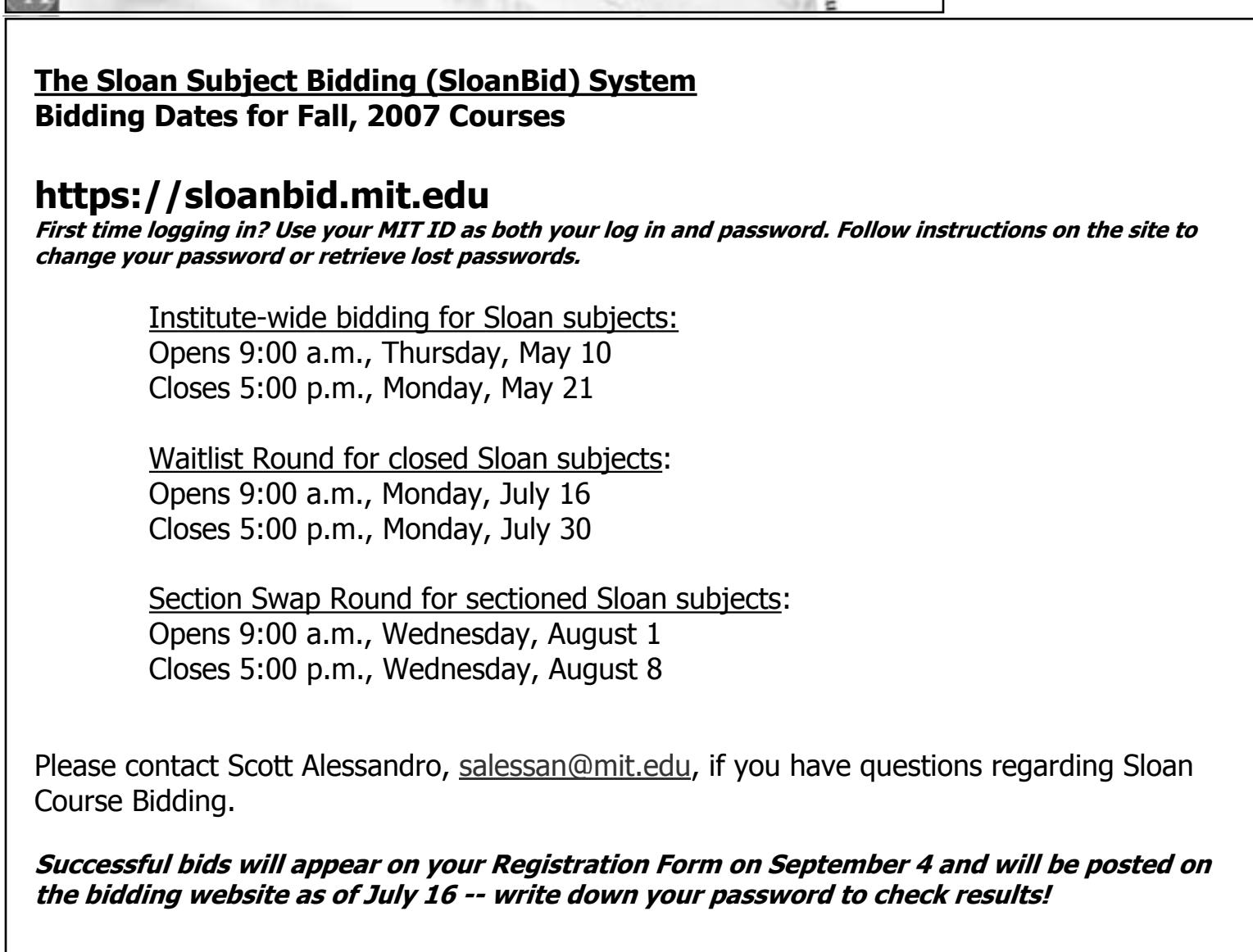
Opens 9:00 a.m., Monday, July 16  
Closes 5:00 p.m., Monday, July 30

**Section Swap Round for sectioned Sloan subjects:**

Opens 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, August 1  
Closes 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 8

Please contact Scott Alessandro, [salessan@mit.edu](mailto:salessan@mit.edu), if you have questions regarding Sloan Course Bidding.

***Successful bids will appear on your Registration Form on September 4 and will be posted on the bidding website as of July 16 -- write down your password to check results!***



# Students May Have Paid Cash to Change Grades, College Says

By Carolyn Marshall  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

SAN FRANCISCO

Prosecutors in California are investigating accusations that dozens of students paid hundreds of dollars to have grades changed at a Bay Area community college, college officials say.

Authorities at the institution, Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill, about 40 miles east of San Francisco, said in a statement issued late Thursday that at least 74 students might have paid someone to change lower grades to higher ones. The college authorities said as many as 400 grades recorded on computer transcripts might have been altered in a five-year period.

The interim president at Diablo Valley College, Diane Scott-Summers, said the administration had transferred all records, the names of students who might be involved and other materials to the Contra Costa County district attorney's office, which is investigating.

Diablo Valley administrators and the college's police department declined to discuss the case on Friday.

Dr. Scott-Summers also said in the statement that the community college district's internal auditor, information services unit and police force, and a limited number of faculty members and other college personnel have been looking into the accusations, which came to light during an investigation that began in January 2006.

The Associated Press reported on Friday that the dean of the college's math department had alerted administrators to the grade discrepancies, while a tip from an anonymous caller revealed that a student worker had been accepting money for altering computer records, in some cases as much as \$600 per grade.

The chairwoman of the math department, Cheryl Wilcox, said college authorities would correct doctored grades, if any were found.

## Solution to Bonus

from page 6

CURSIVE	CLOSEST
OPENSEA	HIROSHI
ASCENTS	ELASTIC
STOAT	CELLINK
TALK	AWOKE EVIL
EGO	SCARY SCALE
RERECORD	KELLYS
FORD	ANNA
AVALON	SEEDTIME
RECAP	GORES TAD
CHAT	ILIAD LANA
HID	SMOLT GOLDS
ICECAPS	IBERIAN
ELMORES	NARRATE
SEEDILY	GREENER

## Solution to Crossword

from page 6

E	KES	M	O	R	E	R	A	C	E	R
G	L	A	M	I	C	O	N	E	M	I
G	R	E	S	T	L	O	F	E	T	I
S	E	L	S	C	E	L	S	N	E	H
S	T	A	U	T	E	N	D	S	U	P
E	N	C	A	S	E	C	A	L	F	S
S	E	E	R	S	B	O	N	E	C	H
S	O	D	A	C	U	R	E	S	U	T
O	N	E	T	O	F	E	W	C	R	E
O	N	E	T	O	F	E	W	C	R	E
M	I	S	A	D	S	E	F	I	R	S
M	I	S	A	D	S	E	F	I	R	S
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A	N	D	R	E	L	E	T	O	L	V
T	Y	S	O	N	A	S	S	N	Y	O
T	Y	S	O	N	A	S	S	N	Y	O

May 4, 5, 10, 11 - 8pm  
May 6, 12 - 2pm  
La Sala de Puerto Rico  
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The MIT Gilbert & Sullivan Players present

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## MIT VIETNAMESE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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# Inca Leapt Canyons With Fiber Bridges

*MIT Students Plan to Stretch 60-Foot-Long Fiber Bridge Between Campus Buildings*

By John Noble Wilford

THE NEW YORK TIMES

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Conquistadors from Spain came, they saw, and they were astonished. They had never seen anything in Europe like the bridges of Peru. Chroniclers wrote that the Spanish soldiers stood in awe and fear before the spans of braided fiber cables suspended across deep gorges in the Andes, narrow walkways sagging and swaying and looking so frail.

Yet the suspension bridges were familiar and vital links in the vast empire of the Inca, as they had been to Andean cultures for hundreds of years before the arrival of the Spanish in 1532. The people had not developed the stone arch or wheeled vehicles, but they were accomplished in the use of natural fibers for textiles, boats, sling weapons — even keeping inventories by a prewriting system of knots.

So bridges made of fiber ropes, some as thick as a man's torso, were the technological solution to the problem of road building in rugged terrain. By some estimates, at least 200 such suspension bridges spanned river gorges in the 16th century. One of the last of these, over the Apurimac River, inspired Thornton Wilder's novel "The Bridge of San Luis Rey."

Although scholars have studied the Inca road system's importance in forging and controlling the pre-Columbian empire, John A. Ochsendorf of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology here said, "Historians and archaeologists have neglected the role of bridges."

Ochsendorf's research on Inca suspension bridges, begun while he was an undergraduate at Cornell University, illustrates an engineering university's approach to archaeology, combining materials science and experimentation with the traditional fieldwork of observing and dating artifacts. Other universities conduct research in archaeological materials, but it has long been a specialty at MIT.

Students here are introduced to the multidisciplinary investigation of ancient technologies as applied in transforming resources into cultural hallmarks from household pottery to grand pyramids. In a course called "materials in human experience," students are making a 60-foot-long fiber bridge in the Peruvian style. On Saturday, they plan to stretch the bridge across a dry basin between two campus buildings.

In recent years, MIT archaeologists and scientists have joined forces in studies of early Peruvian ceramics, balsa rafts, and metal alloys; Egyptian glass and Roman concrete; and also the casting of bronze bells in Mexico. They discovered that Ecuadorians, traveling by sea, introduced metallurgy to western Mexico. They even found how Mexicans added bits of morning-glory plants, which contain sulfur, in processing natural rubber into bouncing balls.

"Mexicans discovered vulcanization 3,500 years before Goodyear," said Dorothy Hosler, an MIT professor of archaeology and ancient technology. "The Spanish had never seen anything that bounced like the rubber balls of Mexico."

Heather Lechtman, an archaeologist of ancient technology who helped develop the MIT program, said that in learning "how objects were made, what they were made of and how they were used, we see people making decisions at various stages, and the choices involve engineering as well as culture."

From this perspective, she said, the choices are not always based only on what works well, but also are guided by ideological and aesthetic criteria. In the casting of early Mexican bells, attention was given to their ringing tone and their color; an unusually large amount of arsenic was added to copper to make the bronze shine like silver.

"If people use materials in different ways in different societies,

that tells you something about those people," Lechtman said.

In the case of the Peruvian bridges, the builders relied on a technology well suited to the problem and their resources. The Spanish themselves demonstrated how appropriate the Peruvian technique was.

Ochsendorf, a specialist in early architecture and engineering, said the colonial government tried many times to erect European arch bridges across the canyons, and each attempt ended in fiasco until iron and steel were applied to bridge building. The Peruvians, knowing nothing of the arch or iron metallurgy, instead relied on what they knew best, fibers from cotton, grasses, and saplings, and llama and alpaca wool.

The Inca suspension bridges achieved clear spans of at least 150 feet, probably much greater. This was a longer span than any European masonry bridges at the time. The longest Roman bridge in Spain had a maximum span between supports of 95 feet. And none of these European bridges had to stretch across deep canyons.

The Peruvians apparently invented their fiber bridges independently of outside influences, Ochsendorf said, but these bridges were neither the first of their kind in the world nor the inspiration for the modern suspension bridge like the George Washington and Verrazano-Narrows Bridges in New York and the Golden Gate in San Francisco.

In a recent research paper, Ochsendorf wrote: "The Inca were the only ancient American civilization to develop suspension bridges. Similar bridges existed in other mountainous regions of the world, most notably in the Himalayas and in ancient China, where iron chain suspension bridges existed in the 3rd century B.C."

The first of the modern versions was erected in Britain in the late 18th century, the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. The longest one today connects two islands in Japan, with a span of more than 6,000 feet from tower to supporting tower. These bridges are really "hanging roadways," Ochsendorf said, to provide a fairly level surface for wheeled traffic.

In his authoritative 1984 book, "The Inka Road System," John Hyslop, who was an official of the Institute of Andean Research and associ-

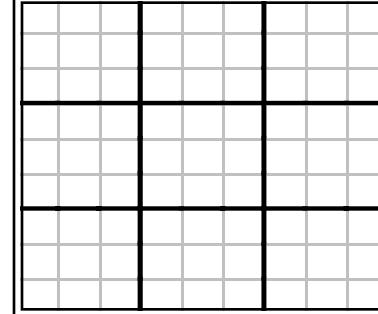
ated with the American Museum of Natural History, compiled descriptions of the Inca bridges recorded by early travelers.

Garcilaso de la Vega, in 1604, reported on the cable-making techniques. The fibers, he wrote, were braided into ropes of the length nec-

essary for the bridge. Three of these ropes were woven together to make a larger rope, and three of them were again braided to make a still larger rope, and so on. The thick cables were pulled across the river with small ropes and attached to stone abutments on each side.

## Solution to Sudoku

from page 6

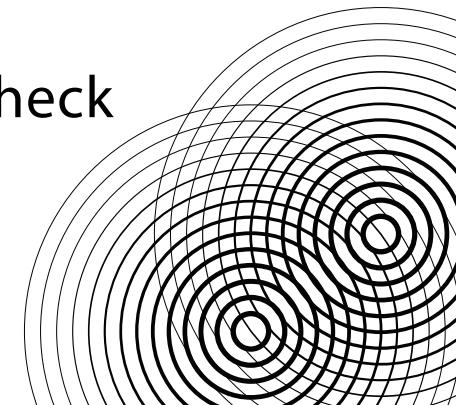


## Get your hands on the 2007 Yearbook!



May 7-11 & May 14-18  
Student Center by La Verdes  
9am - 5pm  
\$50 TechCASH, cash, check

**technique**  
the yearbook of MIT



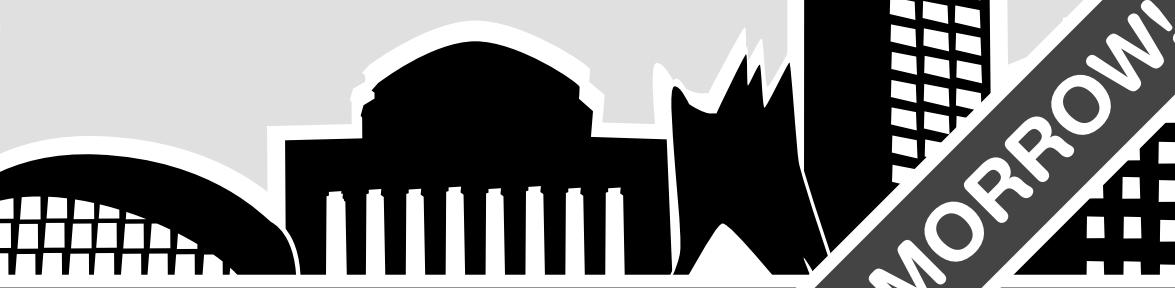
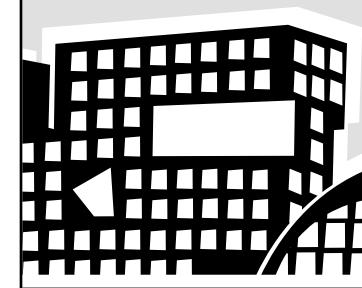
# You're Invited!

Join fellow MIT Community members  
at the 2007 Awards Convocation!

**Wednesday, May 9, 2007**

**Awards Presentation begins at 4 pm in 10-250**

**Gala reception immediately  
following in Lobby 10**



**Awards Convocation 2007**

# Not Yet Any Official Response to Baker Dining Report

**Baker Dining**, from Page 1

Dryjanski '07, a member of the Baker House Dining committee, said in an e-mail yesterday. "We understand that drastic changes cannot be made overnight, but would like to see [the Office of Campus Dining] increase transparency, engage the [Undergraduate Association] Dining Committee in its changes, and present a timeline for system-wide changes."

Dining is not ready to give an official response, Richard D. Berlin III, director of Campus Dining, said in an interview yesterday. Berlin said that he met with the authors of the report on Friday. He added that there would be a response to the Baker House Dining Committee in the future. No decisions have been made on whether Dining will move forward with the report's recommendations, Dryjanski said.

"While the administration values [Preferred Dining] as a community building mechanism, it is important to note that the Baker Dining Committee focused solely on [Preferred Dining] as an imposition of cost," the UA Dining Committee stated in

its response to the Baker Dining Report. "Also, the report's tone toward the Office of Campus Dining and its employees speaks of the feelings of deep frustration and lack of value upon their input that many students feel."

Students should not feel restricted to living in certain dormitories because of the potential financial costs of Preferred Dining, the UA response continued. In the UA Dining Committee's April 2007 survey, the committee determined that a 10 percent increase in the price of Preferred Dining would potentially cause 3 percent of students to switch dormitories.

The UA response also added that there was significant variation across different dormitories with dining halls. Simmons benefitted the least from Preferred Dining and the community building that Dining hopes will result from the program. "Through a series of surveys and solicitation of feedback, the Dining Committee observes that in an environment such as MIT, mandating students to eat in [sic] dining halls is not the most effective method of building community," the UA report

states.

"We hope other dorms see our findings and consider evaluating the system for their own residents as well," Dryjanski said in an e-mail. "Every dorm has a different view of dining, and only together can we make the system better as a whole for everyone."

The UA reported that students are worried about the construction of a dining hall in MacGregor, as the concerns with preferred dining have not yet been resolved. "Until these problems are fixed, new dining halls should not be considered at other locations," the UA Dining Committee stated in its report.

According to the presentation of the Baker House report given to Campus Dining, the average Baker resident eats approximately 42 meals out of the 74 required to break even with preferred dining. Only 13.3 percent of residents break even, the presentation states. While the majority of the surveyed Baker residents are satisfied with the quality of service of Baker Dining, 75 percent of those surveyed do not consider the preferred dining program to be a value.

## Baker Dining Survey Results

	Yes	No
Is the quality of service good or very good?	61%	39%
Is the quality of food good or very good?	57%	43%
Should preferred dining be mandatory?	12%	88%
Is preferred dining a good value for you?	25%	75%
Should preferred dining be extended to other on-campus dining facilities?	92%	8%
Are you in favor of changing to an All You Care To Eat system?	25%	75%
Are you in favor of changing to an All You Care To Eat 75-meal mandatory plan?	11%	89%

SOURCE: BAKER HOUSE DINING REPORT

**A total of 163 out of the 332 students living in Baker House completed the survey, which included these seven questions, along with four others. The full results are available at <http://www-tech.mit.edu/V127/N24/bakerdining/survey.pdf> and <http://baker.mit.edu/bakerpreferreddining.pdf>.**

Additionally, 92 percent support an extension of Preferred Dining to on-campus dining facilities other than dining halls, such as the food vendors in the Student Center.

See above for a table of Baker Dining survey results.

The committee determined that the fair price to charge Baker residents for Preferred Dining would be \$175, a number that will allow the majority of Baker residents to break even. According to the Baker House Dining Committee, the rate at which the Preferred Dining price has increased outpaces the inflation rate. Using historic inflation data, the committee estimates that the cost of preferred should be around \$225 currently. Preferred Dining membership cost \$300 this term and will rise to \$325 in the fall.

The report analyzed other proposed meal programs, including the 75 Meal Plan Program, in which students in residences with dining halls

must purchase 75 buffet-style meals at the start of the term for \$650. The committee determined that the 75 Meal Plan Program would not be valuable for Baker students, because the average Baker resident consumes only 42 meals per semester.

Suggestions for decreasing the costs of dining on campus included finding a vendor that currently has a strong delivery presence at MIT for Pritchett Dining, closing McCormick Dining by having food prepared at Baker and shipped to McCormick Hall, and changing vendors if profitability cannot be achieved.

The report also touched on positive trends in Campus Dining, including the successful introduction of multiple vendors and competition, as well as the choice of vendors, specifically Anna's Taqueria, Dunkin' Donuts, and Subway.

The report was presented to Baker House residents during last night's House Meeting.



HOWARD KELLOGG '08 PEDALS HARD DURING THE IRON NERD TRIATHLON ON SATURDAY, MAY 5, HELD AS PART OF THE UA COMMITTEE ON STUDENT LIFE'S WELLNESS WEEK.



GHEORGHE CHISTOL—THE TECH  
MIT seniors and their guests dance at the Senior Ball at the Boston Sheraton Hotel on Saturday, May 5. This was one of the last opportunities for the Class of 2007 to spend time together before graduation.

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# IS&T Does Not Plan To Restrict or Block Peer-to-Peer Access

**RIAA**, from Page 1

later created" or the agreement may become void.

A sample pre-litigation settlement agreement is available at <http://www-tech.mit.edu/V127/N24/riaa/letter.pdf>.

Jeffrey I. Schiller '79, Network Manager for IS&T, said that the letters also act as a preserve order for MIT, requiring the Institute to save information about the user of a specific IP. MIT maintains a database of IP addresses assigned to users and stores the information for 30 days, said Schiller. "Suppose on day 29 we get one of the pre-litigation notices. Once we get one of these, we basically ... have to save the information forever."

## Increased enforcement

McGovern stated that "most" of the students who were sent pre-litigation letters had previously received Digital Millennium Copyright Act takedown notices regarding the music in question. Schiller said that MIT, acting as an Internet Service Provider, forwards DMCA notices to students accused of violating copyright law.

According to the IS&T Web site, a student's first case of alleged copyright infringement results in a warning, as long as the student responds that the copyrighted material was removed from their computer. A second violation results in temporary suspension of network access and a meeting with IS&T representatives. A third violation results in an indefinite suspension of network access and referral to the Committee on Discipline.

McGovern said he saw "an unusual increase in the total number of takedown notices" between the 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 academic years, estimating that infringement notices increased by "several hundred percent."

McGovern did not have statistics immediately available, but attributed the spike to increased enforcement by television, movie, and software industries. McGovern also said he hoped MIT students would not be

the target of future lawsuits but said that there had been no talks about restricting access to peer-to-peer (P2P) services. Other universities restrict bandwidth available to P2P applications in an effort to stem copyright infringement and some have begun to ban P2P applications altogether. Last month, Ohio University banned all P2P applications, writing in a statement on their Web site that peer-to-peer traffic "consumes a disproportionate amount of resources, both in bandwidth and human technical support."

A statement on MIT's Office of Intellectual Property Counsel's Web page says that MIT "is firmly against the unauthorized uploading or downloading and sharing of ... copyrighted material" but also that "MIT recognizes the many legal benefits of P2P software."

Schiller said that MIT has "no plans" to restrict P2P traffic or block P2P applications, and seemed confident that those policies were unlikely to change. "We view ourselves as an ISP," said Schiller, describing MIT's hands-off network policy.

Schiller also said that P2P programs were becoming increasingly difficult to detect, as applications can conceal traffic in a variety of ways, including encrypting payload data.

Moreover, Schiller cautioned that not all students who receive DMCA notices necessarily violated copyright law. Schiller said that it is becoming "quite difficult" to ensure IP addresses were actually used for infringement. "I've seen notices for random IP addresses that we would have never assigned," said Schiller.

Furthermore, the complexity of some protocols such as BitTorrent has caused erroneous DMCA notices to be sent. A discussion on the EDUCAUSE Security Discussion Group last month included concerns that HBO had sent a series of inaccurate DMCA notices with incorrect infringement times. The discussion also suggested that HBO was relying on questionable and possibly forged data from BitTorrent "trackers" — directory servers that contain information about IPs downloading a file — that could be readily forged.

## No. of Pre-Litigation Letters Per School

University	Settlement Letters Received
Northern Illinois University	50
University of South Florida	50
University of Southern California	50
University of Tennessee	50
Duke University	35
University of Texas - Austin	35
University of Iowa	25
MIT	23
Syracuse University	20
University of Georgia	19
Brandeis University	15
Iowa State University	15
Tufts University	15

SOURCE: RECORDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA PRESS RELEASE

These 13 universities were targeted in the fourth wave of pre-litigation letters from the RIAA. The letters, sent to these universities last week, are a new tactic in the RIAA's anti-piracy campaign and offer students a chance to settle at a reduced fee while avoiding civil action.

In Soviet Russia,  
The Tech joins you!

*join@the-tech.mit.edu*



BRIAN HEMOND—THE TECH  
A pair of F-15 Eagles from Otis Air National Guard base fly over the MIT campus as part of the ROTC Pass-In-Review parade held on Barry Astroturf last Friday, May 4.



JONGU SHIN—THE TECH  
Sigma Nu brothers (clockwise from upper left) David A. Brescia '10, Jeffrey A. Perez '07, Ron Ron Cheng '07, Andrew J. Marok '09 imitate the band "OK Go" at the Alpha Chi Omega Lip Sync on Saturday, April 28.

COURSE III IDMS

## Senior Thesis Symposium

Thursday, May 10, 2007

3:30-5:00pm

Rooms: 1-190, 3-442, 5-217

Join the Course 3 faculty and undergraduate students to hear the Course 3 Senior Thesis Presentations. There will be three parallel sessions, each consisting of six presentations. A complete schedule can be obtained from amyshea@.

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**The Addir Fellows Program brings together 30 students of different faiths to engage and understand each other in a stimulating environment.**

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- Enhancing inter-group relations on campus
- Preparing to lead in a diverse global community
- Learning about the foundations of the Abrahamic faiths
- Developing campus-wide programs

then you should apply!

**Fellow requirements:**

- MIT undergraduate or graduate student through May 2008
- Muslims, Jews and Christians will form the core participants, other faiths welcome
- Eight hours each month for Addir dialogue group meetings and monthly community-wide events
- Fall and Spring mini-retreats (over part of Veteran's Day and Patriot's Day holidays)

Find out more, download the application  
<http://web.mit.edu/dsl/addir.html>

Applications due  
**Monday, May 14, 2007**

Questions? [addir-admin@mit.edu](mailto:addir-admin@mit.edu)

*Addir* is a word in Ancient Sumerian which means "bridge". In the Addir Fellows Program we aspire to build bridges of dialogue and understanding. The Addir Fellows MIT Interfaith Dialogue Program is sponsored by Office of Dean for Student Life and MIT Hillel in cooperation with the Board of Chaplains

# Track Beats Seeding By 15 Points, Places Second at Regionals

Track, from Page 16

own school record in the 100m hurdles, clocking a blazing 14.31, at that time the second-fastest DIII time in the nation, with the winner of the race achieving the fastest time.

The 800m record, only one week old, fell again on Saturday, and again the same two runners dipped under the old mark. Andrea Staid '07 and Andrea E. Bradshaw '09, ran 2:19.20 and 2:19.51, respectively, to place sixth and seventh out of the second heat, another unexpected five points.

The last school record fell during the last event of the day, with both Staid and Bradshaw returning as members of the 4x800m relay team. They were joined by Niehuis and Adrienne M. Bolger '09 in running the day's winning time of 9:23.3.

Brooks emphasized that despite a number of strong individuals, the achievement truly came from team-

work. "The fact that we scored 15 points more than we were seeded is an indication of how strong we are. There were some outstanding performances, but I don't want to take away from what the team did as a whole. [They] all just got it done again. We just had to go out and perform and we did from beginning to end," Brooks said.

The regional meet ends the team segment of the season, although a number of individuals will continue on to try to achieve or improve upon provisional national qualifying marks. During the winter indoor season, two freshmen traveled to the NCAA DIII championship; currently four MIT athletes have either provisional or automatic marks: Magnuson (100m hurdles), Aline M. Thomas '08 (hammer throw), Leanne M. Veldhuis '08 (400m hurdles), and Maria J. Monks '10 (10,000m).



KRISTINA M. HOLTON—THE TECH  
Assistant Coach Vanessa M. Cox (left) and Laura C. Watson '08 (right) play against each other in the MIT women's lacrosse Alumni Game on Saturday, May 5 on Briggs Field.



PETER H. RIGANO—THE TECH

Heavyweight freshmen (left to right) Thomas J. Price '10, Ayaboe K. Edoh '10, Jeremy J. Kuempel '10, Ryan C. Breneman '10, and Waciuma W. Maina '10 compete against Dartmouth and Wisconsin in Saturday's Cochran Cup. The Engineers finished last with a final time of 7:00.97.

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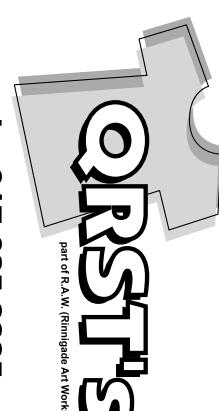
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# SPORTS

## Women's Track Wins NEWMAC, Finishes 2nd at NCAA Regional

By Alisha Schor

TEAM MEMBER

With May just around the corner, and projects and finals looming, the MIT women's track and field team peaked at the right time and won its first conference championship. The Engineers defeated Wheaton College, who won the nine



previous New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) championships, by a convincing 215.5-178.5 score on April 28.

Highlights of that meet included seven individual event winners, 15 All-Conference honors, two new MIT records (800m and 4x400m relay), and the fourth NCAA provisional qualifying mark of the season. Team depth showed through with the



OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH

**Amy R. Magnuson '10 competes in the long jump during the New England Division III championship meet, held last weekend. In addition to placing fourth in the long jump, Magnuson ran what was at the time the second-fastest Div. III time in the nation in the 100m hurdles (14.31 seconds), helping the MIT women finish second in the meet.**

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## With Help of Mistakes, Baseball Comes From Behind to Beat Rams

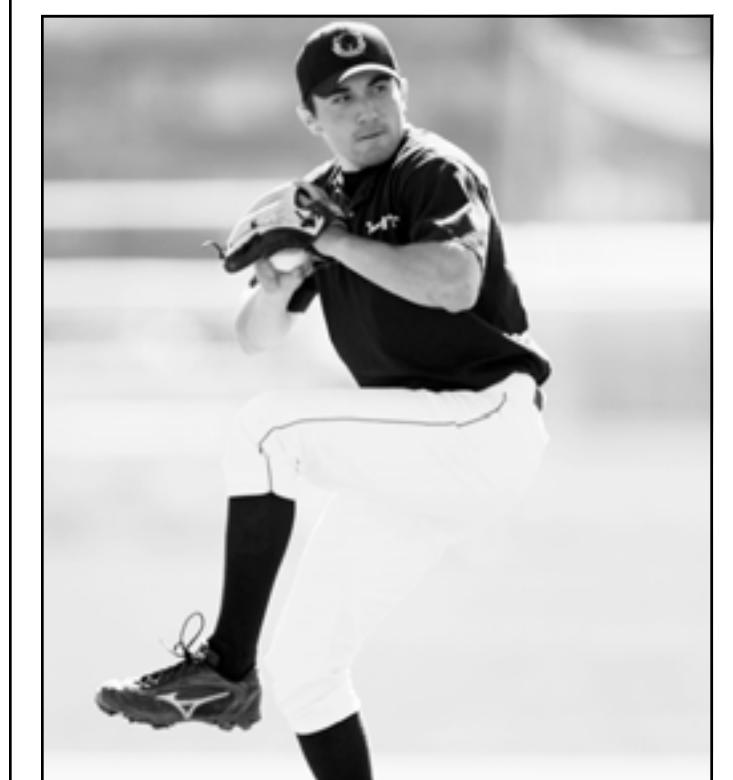
By James Kramer

DAPER STAFF

Richard D. Kosoglow '08 capped his third year donning the Cardinal and Gray with the best start of his career as he allowed only one earned run in a completing-game victory for MIT this Sunday. The Tech bats also orchestrated several key hits against Suffolk staff ace Reid Jackson and the Engineers hung on to defeat the Rams, 8-5.

Suffolk (21-13) jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first behind a run-scoring single by Tom Kelly and an error on a stolen base attempt, but the Engineers (17-16) quickly leveled the score with two runs in the second. Stewart J. Park '10 sparked the attack with a bloop double in shallow left center that scored Stephen C. Toth '09. During the ensuing at bat, Park advanced to third on a wild pitch before coming home on an errant throw to the third base.

Anthony Iacopucci plated Suffolk's second run of a two-run third with a single to left field, although both of the Rams' runs in the frame were unearned as the MIT infield committed two errors against successive batters early in the inning.



STEVEN M. NUNEZ '09 prepares to pitch on Friday, May 4, in a game against Newbury College.

## UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Baseball vs. Fitchburg State College

4:00 p.m., Briggs Field

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